

#11 Smash Imperialist intervention against Iraq! Working class action now!

Iraq invades Kuwait and George Bush pushes the panic button. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussain is denounced as a tyrant, a brutal dictator, a Hitler. And the world must stand up against this naked invasion of a small nation. This calls for action. So the United Nations declares a mandatory economic blockade and the U.S. sends the fleet. Other nations follow suit to show that the U.S isn't isolated. The U.S. campaign is a sickening piece of Imperialist hypocrisy. The reality is that the U.S. has only two principles- money and oil. The Imperialists will vilify anyone who threatens what they consider to be their divine right to exploit the oil rich Middle East. Iraq cannot therefore, be allowed to get away with Invading Kuwait.

The U.S. vitriol is in marked contrast to their reaction to Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. For eight years Iraq fought Iran over disputed border territory. Iran used chemical weapons. One million people were killed on both sides in one of the bloodiest wars in world history. Saddam Hussein was just as ruthless a dictator then. Yet the imperialist criticism of Saddam Hussein was low key. The reality was that the West encouraged Iraq. Then it was the Ayatollah who posed a threat to oil investment and had to be kept in line. The imperialists were prepared to prop up Hussein as long as he was prepared to prop up their Middle East hegemony.

However now that Iraq is attacking one of their staunchest allies, things become different. Kuwait is one of the small sheikdoms the West has maintained to guarantee their right to plunder. In no way does it represent a nation. Of its small population of 1.8 million, only a minority are Kuwaiti. Kuwait is a creation of the West to keep control of the oil out of the hands of the Arab masses. This does not mean that Iraq invaded for principled reasons. Like the war with Iran, Iraq invaded due to the failure to resolve the question of boundaries in a principled way. The Arab people are victims of boundaries drawn up by the imperialists.

U.S. IMPERIALISM IS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE REACTIONARY THAN SADDAM HUSSEIN!

On every score the U.S.A. is hypocritical. If the U.S. imperialists (as they claim) oppose the invasion of small nations, why did they invade Panama, Libya and Grenada? Why did they spend millions to prop up the Contras to destabilise the popular regime in Nicaragua? Why did Australia endorse the Indonesian invasion of East Timor? Why does Britain maintain a terror regime in Northern Ireland? Because money comes before human rights, that's why! The imperialists feign support for the Kurdish people. Yes the Hussein regime has brutally repressed the Kurds. But no more than their warm ally Turgot Ozal of Turkey. President Turgot Ozal came to power by military coup with N.A.T.O. support. Ever since he has brutally repressed the Turkish working class and received Western military and economic aid. The Turkish Air force has blown Kurdish villages into the ground.

The imperialists are crying blue murder about Iraq having chemical weapons. Well in the United Nations, they opposed a resolution calling for the banning of chemical weapons outright and instead called for their control. Translated this means that it is ok for their allies to have them but not any upstart country that might threaten to rock the boat. However, Britain, the U.S., France and Israel have weapons that are far more horrific- nuclear weapons.

The Imperialists have propped up their Imposition over the Arab and Palestinian people called Israel. Over the past forty years, Israel has deprived the Palestinian people of their country, and has made border incursions into Egypt, Jordan,

Syria and Lebanon creating far greater havoc than Iraq is doing to Kuwait. When Israel goes a bit too far, disassociation from the British and U.S. ruling classes is in order. However, there is NO hysteria campaign, NO attempt to destabilise the economy, NO blockades, and NO attempt to lay a finger against their warm bosom ally. Through Israel, the Imperialists maintain a terror machine against the Palestinian and Arab people

The U.S.A. is an Imperialist power in decline. Internationally, they are losing ground to West Germany and Japan. Therefore it is prepared to fight tooth and nail to hang on to their empire. U.S. dare not suffer the humiliation that Jimmy Carter suffered at the hands of the Iranians. George Bush has established an effective world united front against the Iraqis. Sanctions are mandatory on U.N. members. The strength of the U.S. politically was shown at the recent Arab Summit Conference. The Majority of countries lined up behind President Mubarek of Egypt in supporting the U.S. led action. Those defending the Iraq such as Libya and the P.L.O. are isolated and not in a position to give effective assistance. There is even some imperialist media speculation that this may mean the end of the P.L.O.

In alliance with Imperialism is the ruling bureaucracy of the Soviet Union. When the Iraqis first invaded Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnaze made a joint statement with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker condemning the invasion. The U.S.S.R has supported a U.N. resolution on sanctions although as strongly as China. Since then Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov has stated that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has cemented Soviet-American co-operation. Their treachery knows no bounds. In Australia the pro-Moscow stalinist Socialist Party of Australia has opposed gunboat diplomacy but supported U.N. sanctions. This is the position of dissident A.L.P. members such as Gough Whitlam. Well trade sanctions are war carried out by other means. The S.P.A. are lining up with the Imperialists being critical of the way that they are carrying out their war but not opposing Imperialism outright. To fight imperialism we must oppose all action against Iraq in whatever form.

In its struggle to subdue Iraq, the United States can count on a loyal ally-the Hawke government. Of course Hawke is backed by a reactionary mass media. There are all sorts of scare stories about "Australian lives at risk" The aim is to enlist the support of Australian public opinion in defence of U.S. and Imperialist super profits. No doubt there will be a racist backlash against Arab people here. Australia is a semi-colony of the U.S.A. The Australian bourgeoisie is a comprador bourgeoisie committed to maintaining U.S. domination of Australia and the whole world. We, the working class have in standing in defence of Iraq against imperialism. U.S. imperialism is a thousand times more reactionary than Saddam Hussein.

**A WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT MUST BE BUILT TO FIGHT U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS ACCOMPLICE-
THE HAWKE GOVERNMENT!**

WORKING CLASS BLACK BANS AND DIRECT ACTION MUST BE ORGANISED NOW!

In Iraq the working class cannot rely on Saddam Hussein or the military officers to fight imperialism consistently. They should rely on their own organisations and methods of struggle. Out with the

Generals! For rank and file control of the Armed Forces! Organise Soldiers Committees Now! For Workers Militia! However the task in Iraq is defencist to expose the liability of the bourgeoisie to fight Imperialism consistently. In imperialist countries and their lackeys (such as Australia) we must argue for the defeat of Imperialism. We must fight Australia's participation in the imperialist war drive so we can fight the ruling class in Australia.

and the Left protests

The Left is beginning to respond to the imperialist offensive. Public meetings have been organised by Militant and the International Socialist Organisation. Pickets have been organised. In Sydney these have been outside the U.S. Consul and under the auspices of the Bring the Fleet Home Coalition. Involved in this coalition are the People For Nuclear Disarmament (a New Left Party-Influenced broad peace front), the Democratic Socialist Party, the Socialist Party of Australia, and the International Socialist Organisation.

Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam" was one of the slogans chanted by the D.S.P at a picket in Sydney. Oh yes, they do! In particular, they remember the Vietnam Moratorium. According to D.S.P mythology this mass movement mobilised the people and forced the imperialists to retreat. You get these numbers by having broad slogans and having non-militant tactics so we don't alienate the broad masses. It is the strategy of the Moratorium that they no doubt want to repeat again. Well the Timor Moratorium didn't work, nor did the anti-uranium moratorium. Labor is even more committed to endorsing the Indonesian takeover and uranium mining than before these movements occurred. Thousands marched against uranium and in defence of Timor. The reality is this: the U.S.A. and Australia withdrew from Vietnam not because of public opinion (that the D.S.P. strategy amounts to) but because of the military defeat of the U.S.A, Australia and other allies.

Demonstrations are important. However the point of protests should be to educate working class people on the need to take class action against the war. The reality is that if you want to mobilise public opinion you must repudiate class struggle lest this middle class or even bourgeois forces such as the Australian Democrats. Capitalist society isn't democratic. The ruling class won't listen to public opinion when there is oil and an empire at stake. The Bring the fleet Home Coalition is therefore a barrier against building a movement that can really fight imperialism — a revolutionary working class movement.

New Zealand slides towards depression. Labour crashes towards defeat

On July 24 David Caygill, Minister for Finance in the Palmer Labour Party government brought down the New Zealand budget. It was considered by everyone to be an election budget. Ruth Richardson of the right-wing National Party thought it was a "socialist" budget. This term is used with disdain, of course. The financial circles do not consider that the budget does enough to service New Zealand's foreign debt. However they realise that Labour has to do something to keep their supporters faithful. Labour trails Nationals by ten percent in the public opinion polls and looks like plummeting to defeat. David Caygill assures the ruling class that he is prepared to be "flexible". This means that they will cave in to the slightest hint of ruling class pressure.

The ruling classes are very grateful for what Labour has done for them over the past six years. Labour has totally changed the terrain of New Zealand politics. As far as the mainstream of New

Zealand politics is concerned the social welfare, state-interventionist mentality is now dead. It's Labour that's responsible for killing it off. In 1980 the then National Party prime minister Robert Muldoon described himself as a "socialist of sorts". Today, no one from any of the main parties openly proposes socialism, in any form — let alone mean it!

So let's look at what this "socialist" budget offered;

- Extra capital expenditure for health of \$50 million and education of \$200 million.
- New family benefit targeted to low income families. The new family benefit being \$49.36 for the first child and \$28.21 a week for other children.
- a \$318 million increase in overall education including funds for 200 permanent and 400 temporary teachers.

Well if this appears as some sort of gain it has to be looked at in context of the wholesale attack on social services which has occurred over the past six years. Schools suffer from lack of classrooms. Many schools realise that science blocks will never be built. School equipment is run down and inadequate. Many hospitals are so short staffed and under-equipped that it is a health hazard for patients. The rundown of these services has occurred during the past six years under Labour. The budget allocations, even as stated, represent a very small rectification of the situation.

Millions of dollars more are needed just to get education and health standards back to the level they were in 1985. A lot of the education spending had to do with keeping young people at school and off the dole queue.

There were some cutbacks in the budget. Defence was cut. But so was assistance to the unemployed. The budget declared social security to be temporary to most recipients, imposed restrictions on special grants and forced the unemployed to show that they are looking for work. This comes at a time when the number unemployed is officially 160,000 and the real number higher than 200,000. New Zealand's population is about three and a half million. The proportion of unemployed is one percent higher than Australia's and the duration of the average person's unemployment is considerably longer. New Zealand is relatively unused to high levels of unemployment. Even during the late seventies the proportion unemployed was only one percent. Labour cried with horror when the figure jumped to 100,000 under Muldoon. In six years this figure has doubled and the boot has been kicked in harder. These attacks are paving the way for the Nationals to replace the dole with a cheap labour scheme. After the pain — gain!" is the Labour Party current election slogan. Well this is supposed to be the gain! It barely qualifies as an aspirin to cure the cancer. The reality is that the gain to working people will never come. Mr. Caygill has indicated to the financial interests that this is merely one last fling to arouse the faithful. He is, however, a man of pragmatic economics. The increased spending comes from the sale of public assets. Recently the government sold off Telecom and pine forests. New Zealand Labour has been at least as effective at privatisation as any new right government.

During the late seventies N.Z.L.P. was in trouble. Muldoon's Nationals were riding high. In fact in one public opinion poll Labour was coming third behind both the Nationals and Social Credit. The philosophy of the Nationals then was "think big". This meant: expand New Zealand government industry. They established a government steel industry. This, of course, stole Labour's thunder.

Labour's been the party traditionally to social welfare and government intervention. So Labour had two main options. The first, a revolutionary alternative which for these labour lieutenants of capital was not on; the second to oppose Nationals from the right. The then shadow Minister for Finance, Roger Douglas put forward an alternative budget which received ruling class accolades. This budget called for cutbacks in government spending.

Muldoon has enforced a wage freeze. Labour opposed this and counterposed consensus. In many ways the rhetoric of Lange and the rhetoric of Hawke about consensus sounded similar. Whereas for Hawke, consensus (on the ruling classes terms) was his main political end, for Lange and Douglas it was a means to an end. And that end was right-wing policies including privatisation and deregulation. When Labour was elected in 1984 despite Roger Douglas' noblest of assurances. The rich were still scared and withdrew millions of dollars from the country. This gave Lange and Douglas impetus to carry out their right-wing programme. In September they held a Summit Conference to win over the union movement to support their measures. In 1986 they introduced the Goods and Services Tax (10% is added onto prices) and this goes to the government. This of course is a serious attack on working class living standards. After one year in office the OECD imperialist economic think-tank gave the Lange government their bouquets for efficient economic management. To quote their survey: "The progress made over the past year towards the removal of distortions, increased flexibility and strengthened competitive forces within an anti-imperialist medium term monetary and fiscal policy framework is impressive." Translated this means congratulations Lange and Douglas for giving the capitalist class open slather to maximise their profits and put the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working people.

By 1987 the ruling class knew where their bread was buttered. Not only did they realise that they could trust Labour especially Roger Douglas. They feared that the Nationals might not denationalise with such efficiency. Millions of dollars went into Labour's coffers from anxious businessmen looking forward to their system operating with ruthless efficiency and to making profits out of denationalised services. There Is No Alternative (TINA) became the clear message. The ruling class now had the option of two parties committed to ruthlessly serving their interests without the inconvenience of government intervention.

To describe New Zealand Labour as New Right is no exaggeration. When Mr. Greiner was elected premier of New South Wales he sent a delegation over to learn from the New Zealand experience. In early July this year New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer was welcomed by Mr. Greiner. According to Nick, Australia has been "abysmally slow at rooting out featherbedding, high costs and inefficient practices. . . .In contrast, New Zealand had set a cracking pace". Nick is astute enough not to let a label like Labour get in the way of recognising a co-thinker.

Labour has denationalised a host of industries including Air New Zealand, New Zealand Telecom. New Zealand Steel, Post, and Rural Bank, and the Tourist Hotel Corporation. Labour has introduced a user pays philosophy into social services. Labour has deregulated the financial markets, slashed corporate taxes and introduced a goods and services tax. This is a record that any extreme right government would be proud of. Now that the Nationals have an economic guru that the ruling class can rely on in the form of Ruth Richardson they can go back to their traditional party. They are however worried about a relatively left-wing section within the Nationals which wants to go back to

the popularism of Piggy Muldoon. But Bolger and Richardson are in the leadership and they offer further attacks on unionism and abolishing the dole.

New Zealand Labour will lose the next elections due later this year. Currently they trail the Nationals by ten percent. They will lose because of mass working class demoralisation and also because they have been exposed for corruption. A devastating documentary by Television New Zealand exposed the surreptitious soliciting of millions of dollars by Lange and Douglas (to maintain the policies of "Rogernomics") behind the back of the Labour Party. With all this money to rig public opinion National didn't stand a chance and business could guarantee a government they could rely on. So through the Labour Party the ruling class got their efficient ruling class government.

Many on the Left have seen the Lange government as progressive on the question of foreign policy. The Lange government opposition to nuclear shipping in New Zealand created a furore. It disrupted the ANZUS Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The US were certainly angered by the Inconvenience. However, as an act of defiance It Is extremely limited. With Australia, Fiji and other colonies in the vicinity US does not really need New Zealand. The Lange and Palmer governments have made it quite clear that it will willingly co-operate with the US as long as it's on a non-nuclear basis. For example, Lange refused prime ministerial discussions with a leading member of the Sandanista government of Nicaragua. When In 1987 the democratically elected government of Fiji was overthrown by military coup, the Lange government claimed to vigorously oppose the coup. However, he supported moves by their Governor-General to legitimise the coup and told deposed President Bavandra to take part in the constitutional process. In reality New Zealand works hand in glove with Imperialism. The US now realises how token the ban on nuclear shipping Is that it is prepared to tolerate it. Today even the National Party has committed Itself to maintain this policy.

The Lange and Palmer governments have had a devastating effect on the New Zealand working class and its living standards. Unfortunately Labour has faced no serious opposition. The trade union movement has been thoroughly and utterly shackled. The best It can do Is crawl to the government to be consulted before the next round of cuts. The unions have been devastated by the Nissan Plan for enterprise bargaining. This scheme has been resisted by members of the pro-Moscow Stalinist Socialist Unity Party on a local level and by the pro- Albanian Stalinist Communist Party of New Zealand

The S.P.N.Z. has withdrawn support for Labour to give It to whom they describe as Workers candidates. They include some N.Z.L.P., New Labour Party and independent leftists.

However, the most significant organisational alternative Is the New Labour Party led by MP for Sydenham (Christchurch) and former N.Z.L.P president Jim Anderton. Within Its is a section of Labour's left wing and yesterday's Stalinists and New Leftists. These include former members of the now defunct Workers' Communist League. Anyone who looks like putting forward a principled opposition gets expelled. This includes the Permanent Revolution Group and Communist Left of New Zealand.

For Jim Anderton, the solution to New Zealand's woes lies in spending an extra \$875 million on public works. This according to him will provide jobs and save on taxation. Jim Anderton doesn't even talk about nationalisation. He is therefore to the right of classical reformism. He Is best described as a left Keynesian-government investment to overcome the crisis. He Is totally loyal to

the capitalist state. Whilst he supports the special S.I.S. crack police squad to be disbanded, he argues this in the context of giving more money to the ordinary police force Jim Anderton is totally loyal to the capitalist system. He even claims not to be silly enough not to talk about full employment! Well It's true that If you accept capitalism you can't have full employment. Therefore you must fight capitalism.

Jim Anderton is totally honest about his minimalism. He wants to go back to yesterday's N.Z.L.P. manifesto. Unfortunately he doesn't realise that New Zealand capitalism, In the grip of an economic crisis, will not allow his modest economic measures — even if they are desirable. His support for protection and his call for a reduction of cheap Imports from low wage countries are racist and reactionary. The struggle for jobs must be International. The fact that many self-proclaimed communists are sucked into the NLP orbit is a reflection of their thorough and utter bankruptcy. It does however expose what they really are — reformists. In Australia, the NLP has as publicity agents doing their leg work the Democratic Socialist Party. The D.S.P. has found its campaign to revamp Australian Stalinism so bankrupt that it has latched onto a New Zealand attempt to revamp yesterday's Labour Party.

For the N.L.P. the lesson of labour's demise is to go back to the N.Z.L.P. of yesteryear. This is the wrong lesson. Labour betrayed precisely because of its political framework and not merely because of rotten apples such as Douglas and Lange. If you wish to administer the capitalist system then you have to do so on the systems' terms — and attack the working class. The NLP want to reinforce labourism by trying to wind- back the film to when Labour sounded left-wing. The NLP wants to reinforce the Labour Party of yesterday.

In New Zealand there is one organisation fighting for a political alternative to labourism. That is the Communist Left. It has a perspective of breaking the working class from supporting the capitalist system to supporting proletarian state power. This requires the working class to take a stand on all questions of social oppression such as sexism and racism. It means opposition to Immigration controls which mean police raids on Ponsonby to prosecute the Polynesian community. It means resolution of the Maori national question through the means of proletarian class struggle. The Communist Tendency is in solidarity with this perspective. With the Labour Party exposing its reactionary credentials and working class people deserting it in droves it is absolutely impermissible to give critical support to Labour. And New Labour is no real alternative. A revolutionary Communist Party must be built. The C.L.N.Z. is standing a candidate in the working class electorate of Auckland Westland West.

This is New Zealand's sesquicentenary. It is 150 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Of course the Palmer government is using this to legitimise New Zealand mini-imperialism. its domination of the Maori people and divert them from a struggle for real self-determination. Real self-determination means the right to, and the economic means for, a separate nation. The Communist Left is fighting for the right for real self-determination and unity between working class and Maoris to fight the attacks of the New Zealand state.

New Zealand is going down the capitalist drainpipe to depression at a faster rate than Australia. However it's also more likely that a militant class conscious vanguard could emerge. We in Australia could learn important lessons from their struggles so we can make revolution here.

War against migrants

1990 has seen a renewal of the ruling class offensive against migrant people. In 1984 Andrew Peacock attacked Hawke for betraying Australia's white Anglo-Saxon heritage. This was linked to the promotion of Professor Geoffrey Blalney who used his academic credentials to espouse the virtues of white Australia. There was also a campaign against New Zealanders coming over here and living it up on the dole. In 1987 the question of Immigration was raised in the context of Joh Bjelke-Petersen's new right bid for power. The right has used Immigration to play on racist sentiments within the Australian working class. Feeding of the crumbs are the fascist organisations such the League of Rights and National Action.

During the 1990 election there was a bipartisan silence over the question of immigration. Neither party wanted to stir up what could be a political minefield which could lose them migrant votes. However after the elections, Senator Peter Walsh attacked his colleagues in the Hawke Government for refusing to take the hard decisions". By this he meant; refusal to support deregulation, refusal to advocate privatisation and being soft on immigration restrictions. He accused Hawke of pandering to a strong ethnic lobby" He was strongly supported by the bosses press-especially the Financial Review. They argued that Immigration must become economically responsible.

What "looking at Immigration in an economically responsible way" means is that where profits were to be made out of exploited Immigrants, they were welcome. During the sixties you could come to Australia for ten pounds. That is If you lived in England. Asians were only made welcome during the seventies. Now that the profits are falling and factories are closing, migrants are considered to be merely a burden on the social security system. Throughout the world there is a wholesale attack against migrant people.

This year Bob Hawke has been exposed as inconsistent when he unilaterally decided to accept all refugees from the Beijing massacre. But why shouldn't other refugees be accepted also" screamed the opposition. Yes! why shouldn't other refugees who face jail, torture or even death be permitted to stay here? The right want to resolve the inconsistency by

excluding all of them. All class struggle refugees should be permitted to stay here. The Hawke government has hardly been slack in attacking migrant people. In fact they have just introduced some pernicious legislation.

In the publication In Our Interest Betty Hounslow outlines the changes in policy introduced by Senator Ray as follows;

-The important safety valve of Ministerial discretion can only be exercised for only those people who have a review right-and many people (including legal visitors and Illegal Immigrants) have no such right. for up to three years.

She then goes on as well as substantive policy changes such as these; the new system introduces harsh and pedantic procedural rules. Failure to comply with the technicalities will result in loss of appeal rights.

The Hawke Government cannot be described as slack on dealing with so-called illegal Immigrants either. Recently Minister of Immigration Gerry Hand said that illegal immigrants would "feel the

brunt" of new measures when the government's amnesty ended on 31 October Mr Hand announced new staff would to be employed to

- Follow up temporary entrants including visitors and students, who over stayed their temporary entry permits.

- Make sure Immigrants left the country if their applications for visa extensions were rejected.

- Detect illegal entrants who were working and check employment and educational Institutions.

- Investigate organised immigration rackets such as contrived marriages and the Importation of prostitutes.

Under these rules illegal Immigrants will face automatic deportation and be forced to sell assets to pay for the flight.

These vicious measures are no doubt justified as economically necessary. Mr Hand denies most vigorously that he is in any way racist. But racism has an economic basis. It is a division between those who are allowed the privilege of identifying with Imperialism and those who are not. This division is enforced by Immigration controls. Before the second world war white Australia was always defended by arguing that allowing migrants in (especially coloured ones) would undermine Australia's wages and social security system. It is by this logic that the ruling class divided the working class internationally. theory also used this division to persuade Australian workers that they have more in common with their own rulers than with their class comrades abroad. Migrants are blamed for the crisis of the system instead of capitalists

For the working class in Australia. Immigration controls are a fundamental question. If workers accept the states right to attack Immigrants then we can't fight the state when it is attacking us. Nor can we unite with our class comrades when the ruling class play us off along national lines. The struggle for class consciousness requires opposition to all Immigration controls. Supporting Immigration controls plays into the hands of fascism. The fascists are more than racist. They stand for the physical liquidation of both bourgeois democracy and the organised working class. They win support by showing that their method-direct action can be more effective in attacking migrants than the capitalist state machine. Supporting immigration controls plays into their hands. In France the fascist Fronte Nationale has grown rapidly by cashing in on a campaign against illegal Algerian migrants began by the Stalinist Communist party of France. The current Immigration laws passed by the Hawke government mean police raids against the migrant community. The working class must stand up and fight them.

- A new "public interest" test is to be applied to all migrants and refugees-one which is drawn so widely that it will lead to inconsistent and unjust decisions.

- Australia will now give permanent residency to people who flee "government approved" civil or political upheavals and who in a feat de1rlng logic, reach our shores before the persecution occurs

- Legal visitors and illegal immigrants who enter genuine marriage with Australians will no longer be eligible for permanent residency-They will have to leave Australia first and apply for re-entry, with some being excluded